

**VERSION SHOWING
CLAIM AMENDMENTS**USAN 09/577,313
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23. (Twice Amended) A traction drive for an elevator system, the elevator system including a car and a counterweight, the traction drive comprising:

~~a~~at least one tension member, each of which interconnects ~~ing~~ the car and counterweight, the tension member comprising a load carrying rope and a polyurethane coating encasing the load carrying rope, the tension member having a width w , a thickness t measured in the bending direction, and an engagement surface defined on the polyurethane coating by the width dimension of the tension member, wherein the tension member has an aspect ratio, defined as the ratio of width w relative to thickness t , of greater than one; and

a traction sheave driven by a machine and over which the tension member passes, the traction sheave including a traction surface configured to receive the engagement surface of the tension member between take-up and take-off points on either side of the traction sheave such that the traction between the traction surface of the sheave and the tension member in a region between the take-up and take-off points is transmitted through the polyurethane coating to the load carrying rope and moves the car and counterweight.

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